



July 10, 2013

U.S. House of Representatives

RE: Federal Communications Commission Process Reform

Dear Chairman Upton & Chairman Walden,

I write to support Congressional efforts in Federal Communications Commission process reform, which will be discussed in the upcoming Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology hearing. In keeping with the Presidents' goals of a "smarter, more innovative, and more accountable government," Congress should continue its efforts to reform FCC rulemaking process and increase FCC transparency as outlined in two bills sponsored by Chairman Greg Walden and passed by the House in the 112th Congress.

The FCC effectively oversees one-sixth of the nation's economy, yet has little regard for how the mandates and regulations it enacts impact the pocketbooks of consumers and businesses. The legislation requires the Commission to provide a cost-benefit analysis justifying its rulemakings. The FCC has an abysmal track record of considering actual market failure or consumer harm when establishing new rules. This truth was brought to light most notably during the Commission's lengthy Net Neutrality proceeding. The measure would also stop the FCC from making merger approvals contingent on politically motivated, unrelated, and extraneous regulatory conditions.

Additionally, Congress should codify shot clocks for Commission proceedings, curbing the FCC's untimely responses when deliberating a new rule, merger, or otherwise. As evidenced during the AT&T/T-Mobile merger and Universal Service Fund proceedings – amongst others – the FCC frequently starts and stops the clock for political gain. This legislation would ensure proceedings are conducted in an even-handed manner for matters before the Commission.

The Federal Communications Commission has undertaken numerous proceedings in recent years with little regard for its impact on consumers, the economy, or even statutory authority. We urge you to support serious changes to the FCC process that will make the agency more accountable to consumers, business and Congress. If you have any questions, please contact Katie McAuliffe at (202) 785-0266.

Onward,

Grover Norquist
President, Americans for Tax Reform

722 12th Street N.W.

Fourth Floor

Washington, D.C.

20005

T:(202)785-0266

F:(202)785-0261

www.atr.org